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While most Americans are thinking about football season, the MLB baseball playoffs, the coming NBA season, hockey or the upcoming holidays, savvy financial professionals are advising taxpayers to think about their taxes.

April 15, 2015, may seem like a long ways away, but right now is when U.S. taxpayers should be discussing tax-minimizing strategies with their CPA, EA or other accredited tax professional.

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8. Strategize the review process

Decide how you will review and approve tax returns before they're sent to clients. Plan which of your staff members will look for specific issues and which staff members will help to resolve those issues.

9. Share the love

No matter how well you planned your staff and hiring, your tax professionals will work longer hours and endure more stress than at any other time during the year. Make sure you [recognize](#) their hard work with bonuses, if possible, or smaller gestures such as ordering lunch or distributing gift cards. Always remember to sincerely say "thank you."

10. Learn from the past

What made [last tax season](#) difficult? Identify any problems you encountered, and put a plan in place so you don't repeat them this year. Likewise, take the time to document any problems you encounter this year so you'll be even better prepared for next year.

With the right preparation, crunch time doesn't have to be crush time.

Income Tax • Tax Planning

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